

R E M A R K S

Claims 1, 4, 5, 16, 17, 29 and 30 are currently pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to recite, "amino acid Thr342 or both the amino acid Thr342 and amino acid Asp143 of SEQ ID NO:1." The specification only discloses that enzyme activity of the Thr342 mutants and the Thr342/Asp143 double mutant, but not the Asp143 mutants. Furthermore, Asp143 single mutants were already disclosed in the Japanese Patent Publication No. 2001-346587, already of record, which was published before the priority date of the present application. The amendment to Claim 1 excludes the Asp143 single mutant and therefore narrows the scope of the claim. The present amendment is made in an attempt to place the present claims in better condition for allowance.

If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

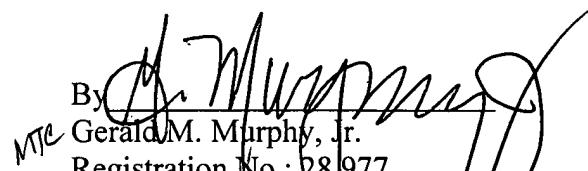
In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension is required, applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 referencing docket no. 3691-0113PUS1.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Monique T. Cole, Reg. No. 60,154, at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: **MAR 28 2007**

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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